

INVESTOR

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The quarterly of the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland

Grace under pressure

Poland uses the global economic crisis to gain ground on Western Europe

INSIDE: Monthly Meeting: Marcin Herra • Focus: Pawel Oszczyk, Data protection, US visas, Manufacturers' Forum • Company profiles: Curb-Tech Europe, Hill International, Mazars • Experts: Keryx Group, Łaszczuk & Partners, Salans, Wardyński & Partners • AmCham Membership Directory 2012

Newsline

News from AmCham and its members

In November, AmCham members met with Mayor of Katowice **Piotr Uszok** (pictured left) and **Piotr Wojacek**, president of the Katowice Special Economic Zone, to talk about investment opportunities in Katowice and the Silesia area.

Uszok discussed the extent of investments made by Katowice in improving the city's infrastructure in such areas as public transportation and culture. Uszok said that Katowice's long-term policy is to change the image of the city from heavy industry to an economy driven by innovative companies employing a young workforce. The importance of such rebranding is crucial to keep young workers from migrating to other cities in Poland or abroad.

Wojacek highlighted investors' incentives offered by the Katowice SEZ. He said that the zone's client service team approaches each potential investor on an individual basis, offering all that they need to make an informed decision about investing in the zone. He also said that Polish government ministers are lobbying hard in Brussels for the extension of SEZs' lifespan in Poland, so most likely the current deadline of 2020 will be eliminated in a few years and investors in SEZs will continue to enjoy tax breaks as long as they meet other requirements.

Le Méridien Bristol



Le Méridien Bristol Warsaw celebrated its 110th anniversary in November with a birthday cake for guests at the Café Bristol, baked by the hotel's executive chef, **Michał Tkaczyk**. Bristol GM **Michael Goerdit** said that the hotel's staff are proud of the Bristol's contribution to Warsaw's luxury lifestyle.

The Bristol opened on November 16, 1901. It is now part of Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Mamaison Hotel Le Regina Warsaw

Andrzej Strzelczyk from Mamaison Hotel Le Regina Warsaw won 3rd prize in the Polish Sommelier Championship, an annual event for

US-Poland Business Summit 2012

AmCham Poland is involved in the arrangements for the US-Poland Business Summit, to be held in 2012 with the US and Polish governments. Other organizers include the Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan and the US-



US-POLAND
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Poland Business Council. The event is also an opportunity for companies who are interested in partnering with AmCham as sponsors. Sponsorship packages will be available at PLN 150,000, PLN 50,000 and PLN 25,000. Companies interested in this opportunity should contact AmCham.

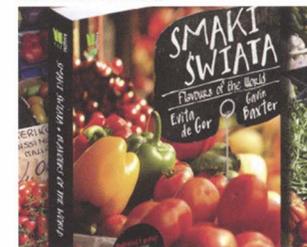
wine professionals in Poland organized by the Polish Sommeliers Association. Among the tasks set for the contestants were opening and serving champagne, recommending the chef's menu and presenting matching wines, decanting wine, blind tasting of two wines and five spirits, and editing a wine list. The Polish association is a member of L'Association de la Sommelierie Internationale.

ManpowerGroup

A global market study by ManpowerGroup has revealed a deepening shortage in skilled blue-collar workers, civil engineers, and production process managers. The sixth edition of the Talent Shortage report, which for the fourth time covered Poland, found that the Polish market is no different in this respect, with approximately 40% of employers finding it difficult to reach qualified candidates in these areas, while the global median is 39%. Poland improved on this count since 2010, when 51% employers said they had this problem.

According to **Iwona Janas**, general manager of ManpowerGroup in Poland, companies who reduced their staff in the initial phase of the global economic crisis are now hit the hardest because they cannot find the right people to implement their business strategies. On the other hand, some companies are postponing their hiring decisions until they see a better market. They hope that when they need new people, they will be able to lure the right people with higher salaries.

Marriott Warsaw



Gavin Baxter, executive chef of the Marriott Warsaw, and **Evita de Gor**, an accomplished author, co-wrote a cookbook entitled *Flavours of the World*, which has been acclaimed by food critics

as a guide to ecological world cuisine. The book is the result of collaboration between two food enthusiasts. De Gor is a traveler, living in Poland and Australia, who has authored 10 books, while Baxter is an Australian who has served as a chef on private yachts and experienced a wide array of culinary cultures. The book is published by G+J Gruner+Jahr in Polish and English. *American Investor* profiled Baxter in the September 2011 issue.

Massive Design

A three-seater bench, codenamed Hexagon, designed for Casamania by Przemysław Mac Stopa from Massive Design, won the Best of Year Honoree Award 2011 at the Best of Year Awards 2011 from the New York-based maga-



zine *Interior Design*.

Hexagon is made of painted pre-galvanized metal, suitable for both outdoor and indoor use. Its distinctive hexagonal structure reflects "the infinite modularity of stems and atoms," according to the company. The concept bench was first introduced to the public in April 2011 at the Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan. •

Members on the move

Panattoni Europe

Artur Mokrzycki has been appointed Head of Capital Markets Europe at Panattoni Europe. Mokrzycki, who has over 20 years of experience in real estate investment management, will be responsible for investor management and relationships, including capital sourcing and structuring for the Panattoni platform across Europe.



New Members

Telecommunications specialist **Motorola Mobility** (www.motorola.com/Consumers/PL-PL) has joined AmCham. The company is represented by **Arek Zawada**, Regional Sales Director.